

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/971,766, filed October 9, 2001, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/261,505, filed March 3, 1999, the contents of both of which are relied upon and incorporated herein by reference; additionally, Applicants claim the right of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a) - (d) based on patent application No. 98103767.4, filed March 4, 1998, in the European Patent Office; further, Applicants claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) based on prior-filed, copending provisional application No. 60/076,752, filed March 4, 1998, in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention--

Page 1, line 10, add section subheading --Description of the Related Art-- prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "Electrical cables, in particular"

Page 3, line 13, add section heading --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION-- prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "The Applicant has now found that"

On page 3, lines 13-33, amend the paragraph beginning "The Applicant has now found that", as follows:

The Applicant has now found that, in consequence of a mechanical damage which creates a discontinuity in at least one of the cable coating layers, it is possible to obtain effective self-

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repairing of the coating by virtue of the presence of an inner layer, placed, for example, between the insulating layer and the outer sheath. This inner layer comprises a material having a predetermined cohesiveness and, at the same time, a controlled flowability, which is capable of repairing the damage by restoring the continuity of the coating layer. After creation of a discontinuity in the coating, the material "moves" towards the point of damage and fills up, at least partly, the discontinuity by forming a substantially continuous layer which is capable of maintaining the functionality of the cable under the expected working conditions. The action of the self-repairing material, which occurs with a reversible mechanism, prevents, among other things, moisture infiltration and establishment of leakage currents, and thus a quick corrosion of the conductor.

Page 16, line 18, add section heading --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS-- prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "Figure 1 shows schematically"

Page 16, line 35, add section heading --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS-- prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "The conductor (1) generally consists of metal wires"

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 2-54.

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